

ilplpneu21

House of Education,
Ambleside.

2. 1. 1814

Dear Mr. Wood

I do believe
that my dreams
come through the gates
of doors!

Mr. Clement that
writes to me about
your encouraging
meeting with the Council.

Their approval will
set - Mr. Lofton's mind
at - rest.

That thought of
our being able to show
a school or schools
doing our work through
out - but I dare say
this arrangement is
better, & as Mr. Premier
says, we must wait & see.

House of Education,
Ambleside.

I think we are happy
in having so persuasive
an advocate in Mr.
Steinthal. - & I follow
unflinchingly with a dash
of cold water in order that
people may not think
the matter easier than
it is!

I hope you & yours

ilp4 pneu 21

are not suffering
from a sort of winter
that I find trying.

very truly yours

Charlotte Mason

House of Education,
Ambleside.

2 - 3 - 1874

Dear Mr. Wood

I am delighted
to hear from Miss Duffin
But she is engaged in
congenial work which we
shall all be glad to see.

Would you be good enough
to address the enclosed to
her. Her mother has been

accidentally destroyed.

Dear Mr. Steinthal
 finds various cheering
 notes of progress in Mrs.
 Indeed you appear to have
 excited a surprising
 degree of interest. Roughly
 too seems well inclined
 to take up our work in the
 group of 'Middle' towns.
 I wonder wouldn't -

House of Education,
Ambleside.

2

of us with a view to
that Report - you were
thinking of if I were to note
two or three of the points
in which our 'Philosophy'
is identical with that of
Zucker.

He does not - as you know
breat of education, but he
urges very strongly that all
human progress must be
Spiritual - nothing else counts.

Applied to education
 that wd mean humane
 learning, would it not?

But he urges that there
 is no such progress in theory
 what he calls Activism. - &
 seems to me that that
 is what we secure - the
 working of the scholar's
 mind on what he reads.

Out of this 'activism'
 he says. something new comes.

House of Education,
Ambleside.

And as we find. There
is always some touch
of originality in the
narrations of the children.

But I expect you
know much more abt.
all this than I do. & I
can not say that it
will be of use to show
that a long practical philosophy

of education agrees
with one only recently
brought before Eng. readers.

I am ashamed to say
that Eucken was little
more than a name to me
before this.

The time of the coming of
birds is come. a delight
is it not?

Very yours
Chas Mason

House of Education,
Ambleside.

4

This letter has
become immoderately long.
but - may I underline
one other point -

The contest is between
the humanists - & the
naturalists. Now it
seems to me that
schools have two functions

12p8pneu21
Angela Mary Isabel Tennant Wood

educational (human
learning only) - &

vocational - learning of
lessons of muscles &
the learning of trades.

I think we only
can combine the two
because Chr. learn
quietly on our knees
& are alert for handwork
& - for which they have
much leisure.
The

13pneu21

COPY

House of Education,

Ambleside.

Oct. 15th, 13.

Dear Mr. Wood,

I am greatly pleased that you see your way to come to us on the 30th.

I want to take counsel with you as to the possibility of introducing the work we find so successful ^{into} ~~with~~ elementary schools - as well as to show you something of what we are doing.

I hope our Indian Summer will prolong itself until then.

I am very sorry to hear from Mrs. Steinthal that your daughter has not yet quite recovered and that you too have not been well. I'm glad you and Mrs. Steinthal have been able to fix on a day that suits you both. I want you to see this trig. College too.

With kind regards

Truly yours

Charlotte Mason.

The Lake Hotel and Pump House,
Llangammarch Wells,
Breconshire
August 5th 1921

Dear Mr. Wood

At last your precious book has reached me and I
browse by the hour! It is indeed a golden number of the Golden
Treasury!

You have opened a new well in our literature. I thought I
knew most of the 'Childhood' poems, but one's knowledge is like a
jeweller's shop compared with a de Beers mine of virgin gold.

It really is a wonderful thing to have done - to enrich
our richest of all literatures with such a vein of ore when we
knew only of stray nuggets, and thought we had in them enough to
glorify us in our children.

Of course I recognised when first you told me of this
Anthology of 'Infancy and Childhood' that it was in Memoriam and
that fact accounts for what seems to me the superlative merit of
the book. No one but a bereaved parent could have had the sure
touch you show throughout - the recognition and the reverence
never weakened by sentiment.

Will you allow me to thank you too for an 'Introduction'
which is an awakening.

If I can get any 'Books' into our Sept.No. this anthology will certainly find a place.

I shall write about other matters later. With hearty gratitude for your service in a cause in which I too am enlisted, and warm regard.

Very truly yours

Charlotte M. Mason.

P.S. I hope this new child of her love will comfort dear Mrs. Wood.

COPY

15 p 1 pnev 21
The Lake Hotel & Pump House
Llangamarch Wells
Breconshire.

Sept. 19th. 1921

My dear M^r. Wood.

Your last letter interested me so greatly that if I had not been hurrying over that forthcoming book you would have heard from me sooner though I have little to say.

I go back to-day, a grateful woman for I think a renewed gift of health, as well as for much pleasantness.

Your chronicle of losses is very sad, and of course I wish that your friend Judge Macklin had come to these baths. Since D^r. Figgis passed from you the Way has been kept open. Does it ever strike you that we are each gathering a "Society" of our own in "Kingdom come"?

I was delighted with M^r. Waugh's notice in the "Daily Telegraph" (which I am sorry to find has not been posted yet but duly put up - it waited for my letters). Your "Golden Treasury" is so appealing, one does read in it every day.

A very nice woman here, the wife of a 'Resident' in S. India, wants you to compile a second Anthology of children who live and pass on to great things - but I'm afraid you would have to write the poems for this book &c.

Campbell says: the poets tell chiefly of those who have love.

I do not think Mr. Waugh does justice to Shakespeare's children - many flit through his plays in a wonderful way - if only in such a mention as "Young Ned Blankenshaw". I hope my little (unworthy) notice may be of use - of course one cannot write all one thinks and feels, but I find that our members follow up our book notices.

I wish you could think of a way to keep up Geography books. Your instance of Trowbridge comes across one constantly, and its difficulty is only to be met by an annual shower of ephemeral rubbish or by avoiding all the details that children love - but two books of my school time, Mary Somerville's Physical Geography, and 'Allen and Cornwell's' Geography are still used!

When am I to see 'The Golden Fleece'? I congratulate you on a very happy title.

I am overwhelmed by the fact that such great matters as are in my "A Liberal Education" should be put forth by an old woman, but you who are young will anyway set forth its principles, will you not? They should do great things for the world, because they are true and read

Like a revelation, though they are what everyone has
always known.

Do tell me about the dear Steinthals if you
see them while you are at Bolton Abbey. I had
a very sweet letter from M^r. Steinthal for whom I
have always had a great regard.

Thank you for all you tell me of the Oxford Press
people. It will be a real comfort to me to
leave my books in their hands if they will have
them.

May I send my love to M^r. Wood and
Angela.

With very cordial regards

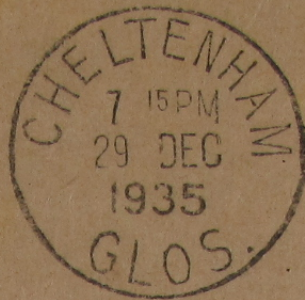
Very truly yours

Charlotte Mason.

This morning
letter

W. Wood H.R. 1

~~W. Wood~~



X Postscript to letter
dated 2.3.14.

(21)

Wood H.R. 1.
T. 1914-1921

Miss Kitching.

1914-1921

House of Education

El
W. B. Kitching

(3) 1936

Amble side.

Westmoreland

17pneu21

Bolton House.
Cheltenham
8. Jan. 88.



Dear Miss Kitching.

I fear they come slowly but
here is a copy of another letter
of dear Miss Mason's -
I have checked it over &
hope to send you at least
two more before very long.

I have had very grateful
letters from three people about
your noble gift of stamps. &
the residue delighted two boys
who came to tea on Sunday.

With kind regards & remembrances

Yours very sincerely

L. S. Wood

Please send letter to
acknowledge. I shall be writing again.

Bolton House
Cheltenham.

Dear Miss Kitching

Thank you enormously for your letter and the stamps. The latter have reached me & give great pleasure to three people, and were doubly welcome (if that is possible, for they are always welcome) at Christmas.

I am so sorry for how long such a busy term, sickness on the staff - indeed say it for yourself are well. I only went to Buxton for part of a very short summer holiday, because of a family wedding near by - But I did drink the waters!

I will certainly ask Mr. Parker to visit Overstone. He wishes he had some ^{too} PNEU. schools in Northants. I am wondering what will happen, too when Mr. Horseshole retires. Ought not something constructive to be done about the work in the four central schools?

And now about Miss Mason's letters - I enclose one (scuttled over in the back many years ago by Angela!). But of the others I must

make a confession. I am very interested in Autograph letters, & recently with a help of Lord Askinth started the Ladies' College Collection. I also started Angelas' (which she does not keep up), and one other. To each of these I gave a letter of Miss Mason's - & now I am going to try to get copies of them. I can't get at the Ladies' College one till term begins. I have asked Angela, who may do something when she returns home - & the other (a relation) has already been asked & will respond. So if you can wait I ought to be able to produce something.

I am so glad you are doing something towards a short account of Miss Mason's life.

Your Christmas card is really lovely - & words as well as the engraving. Thank you so much again for something & the lovely stamps.

I shall write again as soon as I get copies of the letters.

With kindest remembrances and
all good wishes

Yours very sincerely

L. S. Wood

Bolton House

Cheltenham.

14. 1. 1936

Dear Miss Kitching.

Here are three more letters - i.e. two copies and one original. I rather fear I shall find no more for I have hunted in every place I can think of.

Two in particular are missing. One asking me to inspect a College, when Oscar Browning had perforce firm up doing so (Oscar Browning is right, isn't it?). That was in 1914 & I had written to a Board for permission, which was refused on the ground that they might sometime have to inspect a College officially then my ^{previous} inspection might prove embarrassing. This news came so late that Miss Mason only heard it in Germany where (I think) she was temporarily interned because of a outbreak of War. Eventually I had another letter from her, ^{from Germany,} saying that now emergency action had to be taken over the inspection should I do by best to secure the services of Professor E. T. Campagna (or was he my own thought?). Anyway though we got



Campagnac, that letter of Mein Mason's is also lost. Probably I sent the first with my request for leave back to the Board, & the second to Professor Campagnac. (It might be worth while to ask him if he has any letters of Mein Mason's).

I am writing to you almost on the anniversary of her death in 1923 - and I still have your letter telling me of this.

One or two more incidents I remember. Both happened at a conference held at that hotel for Cow & Calf, when a dozen or so Bradford Head Teachers, Mein M.C.D. Law, then Chairman of the Committee, Mr. John Holdsworth, one of the Bradford City Council's inspectors, and I came to see Mein Mason. On the way up Mr. Holdsworth, who was old fashioned & obstinate, albeit one of the kindest of men, declared his host's holding Mein Mason could say would shake his views on

make him believe that her methods were suitable for Elementary Schools. However he did not know Miss Mason, or her charm. As the conference broke up Mr. Holdsworth was seen gone kneeling beside her sofa asking her to give him her autograph!

The other was this. A rather rough-spoken Head Master asked truculently, "What's the point of asking my boys to read 'Waverley'? They can't read Waverley in a term: it is far too long".

"Wouldn't it be possible for them to read some of 'Waverley'?" asked Miss Mason.

"O well, you don't say that in the syllabus", he fumbled. "But", said Miss Mason,

"the syllabus is drawn up for all sorts and conditions of children, and we expect the Teachers to interpret it to fit individual needs".

She conquered by her gentleness, her persuasiveness, her ready answers and general broad-minded tolerance. ^{to what it had been as we went up,} the whole party conversation was very different, & more subdued as we walked down the hill to the station.

The night I stayed at Ambleside, Miss Mason announced as we were going to bed that we should breakfast with the students - I expressed alarm saying I should not know what to talk about. "Oh", she said placidly, "you can talk about hockey". And (for Mr. Hots) I can still see her at a window of that first floor sitting room she had, at the hotel by the "Cow & calf", where G.K. Chesterton also used to stay, shaking her finger at me as I carried Angela on my shoulder up the last steep part of the slope her little pram would not go up.

They were four days. I suppose the letter referred to above asking me if I would do the inspection is not of sufficient importance to you for me to write to the Board about? It is just possible that, if I attached it to my request for permission to comply, it may still be filed on my personal file in their archives.

My kindest regards - of course such a long letter. Mr. John Holdsworth died three years ago. If the little story is worth telling I am sure he would not mind its being told. Very sincerely yours
L. S. Wood